

# E 'Specially' DECS

***A weekly email update from the Division of Exceptional Children Services  
to Directors of Special Education on current issues, information and events.  
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## **Question of the Week:**

What is the status of the 2004 IDEA Reauthorization?

Congress returns from recess this week and will have only a limited number of legislative days in which to complete its reauthorization of IDEA, assuming it is so inclined. If it fails to do so, the lame duck Congress will have another limited window of opportunity in November after the elections. Otherwise the new Congress will have to start the reauthorization process all over again.

From The National School Board Association's "Legal Clips."

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*The Question of the Week will be an on-going feature of E 'Specially' DECS. If you have a special education question that you believe would be of general interest to other Directors of Special Education, email your suggestion to Sammie Lambert at [slambert@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:slambert@kde.state.ky.us)*

## **"Resolving Conflict, Restoring Relationships, Reaching Resolution" - Kentucky Mediation Training**

On August 30, 31 and September 1, the Atlanta Center for Reconciliation provided an intensive 3-day training at Greenbo Lake State Park for people interested in becoming mediators for IDEA disputes. Two days of equally intense training was provided to experienced mediators by the Center. Educators from North Carolina and West Virginia joined Kentuckians for both the novice and experienced mediator training.

The impetus behind the reconciliation model of mediation training is the notion that, in most education disputes, there is an on-going relationship between the parties. Most parents and districts have either a long-standing relationship or anticipate that the child will be in school for many years to come. The model of mediation taught by the Atlanta Center for Reconciliation focuses not only on resolving the dispute but on mending the relationship between the school staff, parents and child.

DECS is hoping to increase the utilization of mediation as an alternate dispute resolution device, due to the relative speed of the process and the positive focus on parent/district relationships. Additionally, when the parties write the mediation settlement agreement, they are much more likely to adhere to the agreement than a resolution ordered by an outside decision-maker.

DECS would like to hear your positive and negative mediation experiences. Please email Sammie Lambert with your comments and suggestions.

## **Contact Information for E 'Specially' DECS**

- Sammie Lambert at [slambert@kde.state.ky.us](mailto:slambert@kde.state.ky.us) for information on newsletter content.

- Chris Thacker at 502 564-4738 for technical difficulties in receiving E 'Specially' DECS.

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*Forwarding of E 'Specially' DECS is not only allowed, it is encouraged. Please send to staff in your district who may be able to benefit from this information.*